



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release NOVEMBER 14, 1958

NOTICE PUBLISHED ON HEARINGS ON FISHING REGULATIONS IN ALASKA

Notice of public hearings on the proposal to adopt amendments to existing regulations for the protection of commercial fisheries in Alaska was published in the Federal Register today, the Department of the Interior announced.

Publication of the dates of the public meetings to be held in December follows the decision by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton on November 8 to propose elimination of all fish traps except those owned by Indian tribes or villages.

Secretary Seaton announced this decision in Juneau, Alaska, on November 9.

The hearings will be held in Seattle, Wash., on December 4, 5, and 6; Juneau, Alaska, December 10, 11, and 12; and Anchorage, Alaska, December 17, 18, and 19.

The proposal to eliminate fish traps in the pending regulations is in accord with instructions from Secretary Seaton to "adjust our actions as quickly as possible to the desires of the Alaskans in regard to the disposition of their natural resources."

The use of fish traps in Alaskan waters has been a controversial issue for many years. Twice the people of Alaska have voted in referendum to abolish them. The first expression was in October 1948 when the vote was 19,712 to 2,634 for the discontinuance of the traps. The second came in April 1956 when a second referendum favored elimination of the traps, 20,872, to 3,946.

A copy of the notice is attached.

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(50 CFR, Parts 101-115)

Alaska Commercial Fisheries

Notice of Intention to adopt amendments to the existing regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act approved June 11, 1946 (60 Stat. 237; 5 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior intends to adopt amendments to existing regulations governing the time during and the means and methods by which commercial fish and shellfish may be taken in the waters of Alaska. Amendments to existing regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska are to be adopted under the authority contained in the Act of June 6, 1924, as amended and supplemented (43 Stat. 465, 48 U.S.C. 221 et seq.), are to become effective on or about March 1, 1959, and are to continue in effect thereafter until further notice.

Interested persons are hereby invited to participate in the adoption of amendments to the regulations by presenting their views, data, or arguments in writing to the Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., on or before December 31, 1958, or by presenting their views orally or in writing at a series of open discussions scheduled to be held as follows.

Seattle, Washington	December 4, 5, and 6
Juneau, Alaska	December 10, 11, and 12
Anchorage, Alaska	December 17, 18 and 19

The hour and place of each meeting will be announced by the local representative of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries at the cities indicated above.

(Sgd) Fred A. Seaton
Secretary of the Interior

Date: November 8, 1958